



Henry County, Virginia

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

Henry County Monthly Newsletter

October 2009

County unveils military award

An effort to honor those who have served their country has resulted in a new community award for residents of Henry County.

The "Military Veteran of the Year" award will go to the nominee judged by the Board of Supervisors to best represent what service to the country and to the community means. The award is patterned after Henry County's popular Jack Dalton Community Service Award and was created at the suggestion of Board of Supervisors chairman Debra Buchanan.

"We all owe a tremendous debt to anyone who's served in the military, and I think society hasn't sufficiently said 'thanks'," Buchanan said. "This new Military Veteran of the Year award is one small way that the County and the Board of Supervisors can do that."

Nomination forms are available from the County's website - www.henrycountyva.gov - and from the County Administrator's office. All nominations must be submitted on the nominating form.

Nominees will be judged on their military service and their community service. The Board of Supervisors will select the winner and a presentation will be made to that person in conjunction with area veterans' groups. The presentation will be made in November and will help celebrate Veterans Day, which is November 11.

Questions can be directed to the members of the Board of Supervisors or to the County Administrator's Office.

Two chances to clean up coming soon

Citizens will have two opportunities the next two Saturdays to help clean up around their homes and their community. The first chance is Saturday, October 3 for the Smith River Cleanup. Volunteers are needed to help clean up around one of our most precious natural resources.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Fieldale Ballpark at 8 a.m. The event will culminate at 1 p.m. Contact Gateway Streetscape at 634-4674 for more information.

The second opportunity is the fall version of the Household Hazardous Waste Day, set for Saturday, October 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the new Henry County Service Center. The site is located at 2285 Fairy Stone Park Highway, across from Bassett Office Supply.

This event allows County and City residents (no businesses) to dispose of old batteries, computers, motor oil, and similar materials free of charge. Please contact Gateway Streetscape at 643-4674 or the Henry County Refuse Department at 634-2503 for more details.

Changes made to outdoor burning regulations

Henry County has changed its outdoor burning code to match the Commonwealth of Virginia's code. The old County code banned outdoor burning from 4 p.m. to 12 midnight from March 1 to May 15. The new dates are from February 15 to April 30.

The official code reads as follows:

Sec. 9-201. Outdoor burning, when prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to set fire to, or to procure another to set fire to, any brush, leaves, grass, debris, or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material capable of spreading fire located within three hundred (300) feet of any woodland or brush land, during the period beginning February 15 and ending April 30 of each year, except between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.

Bus system becoming popular with riders

The Piedmont Area Regional Transit (PART) bus system picked up riders at an impressive pace during the most recent 30-day tracking period.

According to figures provided by RADAR of Roanoke, which manages the local system and several others across the Commonwealth, ridership on the PART system from August 26 to September 25 totaled 709. That was more than twice the previous high of 311 riders, which came during the previous 30-day period.

The influx of riders came from both the City of Martinsville (366 riders) and Henry County (343 riders).

The most popular spots for pickups were Patrick Henry Community College, with 101 riders; Pony Place in the City of Martinsville (61 riders); and the City Municipal Building (50 riders).

Since changes were made in August to tweak the routes, add a second bus and to lower fares to 50 cents per ride, PART has carried more than 1,000 riders.

The current route schedule is posted on Henry County's website - www.henrycountyva.gov - and the City of Martinsville's website - www.martinsville-va.gov - and is available at the County Administration Building and the City Municipal Building. It's also available on RADAR's website - www.radartransit.org.

The fixed-route system covers the high-traffic areas within the City of Martinsville and Henry County, including access to the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Social Services, the Social Security Office, PHCC, the Health Department, City and County government buildings, Grace Network/Adult Day Care Center, Patrick Henry Mall, medical facilities and major retail locations.

The PART system runs 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is managed by RADAR of Roanoke, a non-profit organization that has organized and maintained both public and private human service transportation for more than 30 years.

For more information, please contact Leon Towarnicki, the City of Martinsville's Director of Public Works at (276) 403-5154; Lee Clark, Henry County's Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection at (276) 634-4620; or Leon Robertson, RADAR at (800) 964-5707 Ext. 105.

For more information about the Henry County, Virginia., visit The Official Website of Henry County, Virginia at <http://www.henrycountyva.gov>.

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